

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 31, 2016

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

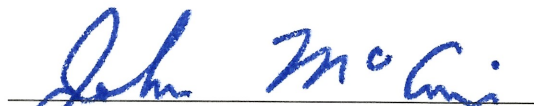

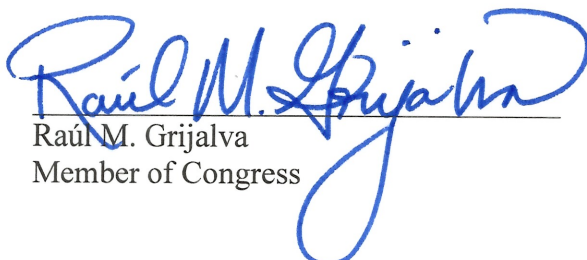
We write to express support for an Army Corps of Engineers ecosystem restoration and flood control project to remove and replace the invasive salt cedar tree along the Gila River. Restoring the river's natural ecosystem could prevent future flood events from threatening communities along the river.

As you may know, a recent floodplain designation of the Gila River area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) found that salt cedar growth has increased the 100-year floodplain size by seven square miles—requiring thousands of farms, homeowners, and businesses in Goodyear and Buckeye to purchase expensive flood insurance policies. There are also concerns that fires, due to a highly combustible oil found in the salt cedar, threaten existing and future infrastructure in these communities.

To address these concerns, local elected officials and representatives from relevant state and federal agencies met in March and agreed that Army Corps assistance is required for this project. Subsequently, Maricopa County's Flood Control District has submitted a proposal to the Army Corps' Los Angeles District seeking assistance under Section 205 or 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, which we have attached for your review.

Given these concerns, we respectfully ask that you respond to the Maricopa County Flood Control District's request for assistance and provide copies to our offices. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance within existing law, rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. Thank you for your attention to their request.

Sincerely,

  
John McCain  
United States Senator  
Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Enclosure